

ACCESSIBILITY OF LAKE BERRYESSA FACILITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The goal of Reclamation's Commissioner is to have all places of employment for Reclamation employees and places of public visitation (such as recreation facilities) that are managed by Reclamation or by private, State, or County partners made accessible to people with physical disabilities by 2010. The first phase of this goal is to have all evaluations completed by 2003. The second phase is to have all Corrective Action Plans completed by 2006. The final phase is to have all facilities accessible by 2010.

All seven Lake Berryessa resorts; Capell Boat Launch; Olive Orchard, Oak Shores, and Pope Creek Day Use Areas; Smittle Creek; and the Reclamation Visitor Center were evaluated for accessibility features. Facilities construction at Lake Berryessa was completed prior to 1980, and the facilities do not meet all current Federal accessibility standards.

The legal requirement for accessibility of facilities on Federal property begins with the Architectural Barriers Act. This act requires buildings financed with Federal funds be designed and constructed to be accessible to persons with physical disabilities. The Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS) are the enforceable standards for the Architectural Barriers Act. The Department of the Interior requires compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) when they are more stringent than UFAS. The Rehabilitation Act (Act) prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in programs conducted by Federal agencies or programs receiving Federal funds. Section 504 of the Act also mandates that self-evaluations be completed to ensure that programs and services are accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities.

The accessibility evaluations of the facilities at Lake Berryessa were conducted using Reclamation's Accessibility Data Management System (ADMS). From the inventory in the ADMS database, a checklist was used to perform a comprehensive evaluation of each component (i.e., doors, ramps, programs, etc.) at each Lake Berryessa facility. This involves measuring such things as the slope of a ramp, width of a door, or amount of pressure required to open a door. The results were entered into the ADMS database and the system evaluated the data against the accessibility standards. From the evaluation data entered into the ADMS database, a report was generated to determine the deficiencies of each component at each site. The evaluations have shown that most facilities at Lake Berryessa do not meet the standards. Along with Reclamation's Technical Service Center in Denver, Colorado, the Mid-Pacific Region is developing plans to bring facilities into compliance. The work is scheduled to begin during fiscal year 2004.